

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 NEA-06 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-01 INR-05 INT-05 L-02 LAB-01

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STR-01 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1425

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ALGIERS 2538

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, PN, AG

SUBJ: ALGERIAN/PANAMANIAN TRADE AGREEMENT

SUMMARY: ALGERIA HAS JUST INITIALED AN IMPORTANT
BILATERAL, TRADE AGREEMENT WITH PANAMA HERE IN
ALGIERS. AGREEMENT COVERS BANANAS, COFFEE, WOOD CEMENT AND
SUGAR ON PANAMANIAN SIDE AND EDUCATION, FERTILIZER
AND OIL ON ALGERIAN SIDE.

1. ALGERIAN NEWSPAPER EL MOUDJAHID REPORTED ON
NOVEMBER 15 THE INITIALING OF A BARTER TRADE
AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ALGERIAN NATIONAL COPORATION
ONACO AND THE PANAMANIAN CORPORATION CONABASTOS
(COMMISSION DE LEGISLACION PANAMA CITY).

2. UNDER THE AGREEMENT THE PAPER SAYS PANAMA WILL
SELL 10,000 TONS OF BANANAS TO ALGERIA IN 1975 WHICH
WILL BE ALMOST ALL OF PANAMA'S PRODUCTION ACCORDING ARTICLE.
DELIVERIES WILL BEGIN IN JULY. (UP TO NOW ALGERIA BOUGHT AFRICAN
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BANANAS, PRIMARILY FROM THE IVORY COAST. THESE

BANANAS HAVE BEEN SOLD BY INDIVIDUAL PEDDLERS IN ALGERIA FOR ABOUT 25 CENTS EACH.) THE ARTICLE SAYS ALGERIA IS GETTING THE PANAMANIAN BANANAS AT DOLS. 3.50 A BOX WHICH IS THE PRICE PANAMA HAD DEMANDED FROM MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES. THIS STEP, THE PAPER NOTES, IS IN LINE WITH THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE GOALS AND PUTS AN END TO A CENTURY OF NORTH AMERICAN MONOPOLY OF PANAMA'S ECONOMY.

3. ALGERIA WILL ALSO IMPORT SUGAR FROM PANAMA AT A PREFERENTIAL PRICE. THE VOLUME IS NOT NOTED, BUT IS SAID TO BE ABOUT HALF OF ALGERIA'S NEEDS. (IN THE PAST ALGERIA HAS IMPORTED ABOUT 400,000 TONS OF SUGAR. THIS YEAR BRAZIL WILL SELL ABOUT 265,000 TONS AT THE WORLD PRICE PLUS A SMALL SURCHARGE. ALGERIA IS STILL TRYING TO BUY MORE SUGAR FROM BRAZIL AND HISTORICALLY BUYS LARGE QUANTITIES FROM CUBA. BRAZILIAN SOURCE OF ABOVE INFORMATION BELIEVES ALGERIA IS STOCKING SUGAR AND ALSO RE-EXPORTING TO EASTERN BLOC COUNTRIES. THE SAME SITUATION IS ALSO TRUE FOR COFFEE WHICH IS INCLUDED IN ALGERIAN/PANAMANIAN TRADE AGREEMENT, EXCEPT IT MAKES EVEN LESS SENSE TO STOCK OR RE-EXPORT COFFEE FOR WHICH PRICES HAVE BEEN FALLING.) ALGERIA WILL ALSO IMPORT FROM PANAMA 400,000 CUBIC FEET OF CEDAR AND OTHER WOOD. FINALLY EXCESS PANAMANIAN PRODUCTION OF CEMENT WILL BE SENT HERE.

5. IN RETURN ALGERIA WILL SEND OIL AND FERTILIZER TO PANAMA. FINALLY FOUR HUNDRED PANAMANIAN STUDENTS WILL COME TO ALGERIA TO STUDY IN THE AREAS OF HYDROCARBONS AND ELECTRONICS FOR THE 1974/75 SCHOOL YEAR. FURTHER ACCORDS WILL BE SIGNED SHORTLY.

6. COMMENT: ANY PANAMANIAN REPORTING ON THIS ACCORD WOULD BE OF INTEREST. EMBASSY BELIEVES FIGURES ARE EXAGGERATED.
PARKER

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